

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8154
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN ETRD PBOR KE TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN POLICY ON CROSS-BORDER TOURISM

REF: NAIROBI 4899

1. TANZANIAN TOURIST CORPORATION GENERAL MANAGER MARYOGO'S STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL IS AFFIRMATION OF TANGOV POLICY ESTABLISHED SHORTLY AFTER CLOSING OF KENYA-TANZANIA BORDER IN FEBRUARY 1977. THIS POLICY, AS WE REPORTED, IS THAT EVEN AFTER THE BORDER IS RE-OPENED TOURISTS WHO WANT TO VISIT TANZANIA WILL HAVE TO START THEIR SAFARIS IN TANZANIA. THEY WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DRIVE INTO TANZANIA WITH TOURS ORIGINATING IN KENYA. WE ASSUME TANGOV WOULD ACCEPT TOURISTS ARRIVING BY AIR FROM KENYA ONCE AIR LINKS REESTABLISHED.

2. RATIONALE FOR TANZANIA TOURISM POLICY IS THAT KENYA WAS DERIVING ALL THE REAL BENEFITS OF TANZANIA'S SUBSTANTIAL TOURIST ASSETS. TOURISTS PAID FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN NAIROBI TO SEE THE ANIMALS AND OTHER SIGHTS OF THE SERENGETI AND NGORONGORO (OFTEN ADVERTISED BY KENYAN PROMOTERS AS BEING IN KENYA) AND ALL TANZANIA GOT WAS LOCAL CURRENCY. THIS CAUSED BAD FEELINGS OVER THE YEARS ON TANZANIA'S PART. TANGOV CLAIMS TO HAVE SOUGHT REDRESS FROM KENYA
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OVER A LONG PERIOD BUT TO NO AVAIL. TANZANIAN CRACKDOWN ON CROSS-BORDER TOURISM WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE BUT THE FEBRUARY 1977 CLOSING OF THE BORDER CLINCHED IT.

3. WE BELIEVE TANGOV NOW SEES TOURISM ISSUE AS SETTLED AND SEPARATE FROM OTHER ELEMENTS IN KANYAN-TANZANIAN DISPUTE. IT WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE LIKELY USE TOURISM TO PRESSURE KANYA ON OTHER

ISSUES.

4. FOR THE PRESENT, TANGOV DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN COMPETING WITH KANYA. IT WOULD EXPECT THAT VISITORS TO EAST AFRICA WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO VISIT BOTH COUNTRIES. TANGOV OFFICIALS SEEM CONFIDENT THAT NUMBERSRS OF VISITORS TO NORTHERN ATTRACTIONS WILL INCREASE WHEN IT BECOMES MORE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY CANNOT BE REACHED FROM KANYA. OUR TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT IS THAT THIS CONFIDENCE IS JUSTIFIED.
SPAIN

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